

INTEROFFICE MEMO



DATE: June 25, 2004

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FROM: **RANDY SCOTT**, Division Chief
Land Use Services Department, Advance Planning Division

TO: **NARESH P. VARMA**, P.E., Chief
Department of Public Works, Environmental Management Division

File: Yard 5/W.O.# H13706

SUBJECT: **YARD 5 - CEQA CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR THE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT THE SPILLWAY OF WATERMAN BASIN NUMBER 2**

I have reviewed, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, the project description for the above referenced project (Project). The Old Fire and Christmas day storm of 2003 resulted in damage to the steel truss bridge located at the spillway in Waterman Basin No. 2. The work will involve replacing the existing damaged bridge with a railroad flat car bridge. The Project is scheduled for the Fiscal Year 2004/05. The estimated construction start date is September 2004, and the duration of construction is approximately four (4) weeks.

The Project location can be found on the San Bernardino North USGS quadrangle map (see attached). The Project area is bordered by chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and riparian stream habitat that is beginning to recover from the Old Fire. Although project-related impacts on protected/sensitive species or their associated habitat are not anticipated, a biological monitor should be available to conduct periodic site reviews during the construction activity.

The proposed work qualifies for a Categorical Class I Exemption under Section 15269 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines for emergency repairs necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety, or welfare.

To complete the exemption process, I recommend that a Notice of Exemption be filed with the Clerk of the Board.

RS:SL:sl/CatEx_Y5_waterman

cc: Carrie Hyke, LUS
Brendon Biggs, Trans. Design
Shay Lawrey, EMD
PJM Reading File